

~~14. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound comprises an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid.~~

~~15. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

~~16. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 12, which also contains a xanthine as a biologically active compound.~~

~~17. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the xanthine is caffeine.~~

~~18. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compound is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.~~

~~19. (New) A method of preparing a composition in the form of a dry powder and which composition comprises:~~

- ~~a) at least one membrane lipid, and~~
- ~~b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,~~

~~and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which process comprises either mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder, or dispersing/dissolving the above components, either sequentially or simultaneously, in a solvent, subsequently removing the said solvent so as to form a solid mixture and then pulverizing the said solid mixture to produce a homogeneous dry powder.~~

~~20. (New) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration.~~

~~21~~ (New) A method of preparing a dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, which method comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, and
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium.

~~22.~~ (New) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, or as prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, and
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration.